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CONTACT NUMBER: 815-987-4444

August 2, 2007

## **FEDERAL JURY FINDS OGLE COUNTY MAN GUILTY OF POSSESSING FIREARMS WHILE SUBJECT TO ORDER OF PROTECTION**

ROCKFORD – PATRICK J. FITZGERALD, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois; ANDREW L. TRAVER, Special Agent-In-Charge of the Chicago Office of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives; PAUL A. LOGLI, Winnebago County State's Attorney; BEN ROE, Ogle County State's Attorney; CHET EPPERSON, Chief of the Rockford Police Department; and GREGORY A. BEITEL, Ogle County Sheriff, today made the following announcement:

Following a three-day trial, a federal jury in Rockford yesterday found **DAVID L. WESCOTT**, 53, formerly of Stillman Valley, guilty of two counts of possession of firearms while subject to an order of protection.

A federal indictment had charged that on November 29, 2005, Wescott possessed 22 firearms while subject to an order of protection that had been entered against him in Ogle County, Illinois. Evidence presented at trial established that when Wescott was stopped by police in Rockford in the late evening hours of November 29, 2005, he had 19 firearms in his vehicle. Police later recovered 3 additional firearms from Wescott's residence in Stillman Valley. Evidence at trial further established that at the time of the traffic stop, Wescott was subject to an order of protection out of Ogle County, Illinois which had ordered him to turn over his firearms to the Ogle County Sheriff's Department.

Sentencing for Wescott has been scheduled for November 15, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. Wescott faces a term of imprisonment of not more than 10 years on each count of the indictment, as well as a maximum fine of \$500,000, and between 2 and 3 years of supervised release following his release from prison. The actual sentence will be determined by United States District Judge Frederick J. Kapala, guided by the United States Sentencing Guidelines. Wescott will not be eligible for parole.

First charged by the Winnebago County States Attorney's Office under state law, Wescott was transferred to federal court where he was charged under tough federal firearms laws as part of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program. Project Safe Neighborhoods is an intensive, cooperative effort between local, state, and federal law enforcement to attack gun crimes. The cornerstone of the program is that every defendant charged in state court for an offense involving a gun will be reviewed for possible federal prosecution in order to obtain the harshest penalties for the worst offenders. Additional information about Project Safe Neighborhoods may be found at [www.psn.gov](http://www.psn.gov).

The case was investigated by the Rockford Office of the ATF, the Rockford Police Department, and the Ogle County Sheriff's Department. The case is being prosecuted in federal court by Assistant United States Attorneys Michael F. Iasparro and John G. McKenzie.

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